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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/750,813	12/28/2000	Kazutoshi Ishikawa	SANKY P-198/500615.20085	8264
26418	7590	02/26/2004	EXAMINER	
REED SMITH, LLP ATTN: PATENT RECORDS DEPARTMENT 599 LEXINGTON AVENUE, 29TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022-7650			FRANKLIN, JAMARA ALZAIDA	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2876	

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/750,813	ISHIKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jamara A. Franklin	2876	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,5 and 8-10 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,5 and 8-10 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgment is made of the receipt of the amendment received on 11/13/03. Claim 1, 5, and 8-10 are currently pending.

Drawings

1. The drawings changes were received on 5/30/03. These drawings changes are acceptable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 5, and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mita et al. (US 5,045,674) (hereinafter referred to as 'Mita') in view of Saroya (US 5,554,840).

Mita teaches an IC card reader/writer having a connector 7 fixed pivotally on a supporting member 8. Connector 7 has contact members 7A adapted to come into contact with contacts on an IC card. Support member 8 is fixed to a rotation shaft 9 which is rotatably supported. When the rotating shaft 9 is rotated by an actuator 13 in response to a detection output of a first sensor 6, the connector 7 is moved to contact the contacts on the IC card.

Mita lacks the teaching of a control circuit board mounted to the contact blocks and the contact blocks being replaceable as a modular unit.

Saroya teaches a contacts block mechanism (spring contact array carriage 14) of an IC contact card reader wherein an IC card control circuit board (PCB 16) is mounted to the contacts block (spring contacts array 13) and the contacts block (13) is replaceable as a modular unit (col. 3, lines 10-15)

One of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized that placing the circuit board atop the contacts block would have been a beneficial enhancement of the invention of Mita by minimizing the size of the card reader since the circuit board would have been integrated into a pre-existing area of the reader. Also, one of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized that having contacts block be replaceable as a modular unit would have been beneficial for repair and maintenance purposes since only the contacts block would have to be updated in the case of a contacts block problem. Therefore, it would have been obvious, at the time the invention was made, to modify the teachings of Mita with the contacts block and the arrangement of the circuit board as taught by Saroya.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 5, and 8-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The newly cited independent claim 8 and newly added limitation citing, "said contacts block being replaceable as a modular unit", prompted the examiner to apply a piece of art which reads upon the newly claimed limitation. The newly cited Saroya reference also reads upon the limitation citing "an IC card control circuit board mounted to said contacts block" thus prompting the examiner to cite the Saroya refer in place of the Muto reference.

Conclusion

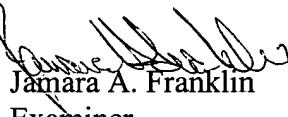
5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jamara A. Franklin whose telephone number is (571) 272-2389. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Janara A. Franklin

Examiner

Art Unit 2876

JAF

February 6, 2004



MICHAEL G. LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800